

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 191

By Butt

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Bratton Farm on being named the 2017 Maury County Alliance Century Farm of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly salute that most noble agricultural institution, the family farm, which serves as a cornerstone for our rural communities while providing food and fiber for Tennessee and beyond; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy family farm is the Bratton Farm in Williamsport, Maury County, which is still owned and operated by members of the Bratton family today and has been honored as the 2017 Maury County Alliance Century Farm of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the Century Farm Program was established to recognize the dedication and contributions of those families who have retained ownership of the same farm for more than a century, persevering through succeeding generations and coping with wars, floods, droughts, economic crises, and other obstacles presented by way of natural and human intervention; and

WHEREAS, the genesis of the Bratton Farm can be traced to James Holmes Bratton, Sr., who purchased farmland in Williamsport from Robert H. Moore in February 1909; this 250-acre tract of land lies on both sides of Williamsport and Shady Grove Road and is bound on the south by the Duck River; and

WHEREAS, born in 1873, James Bratton, Sr., married Mary Etta Harris in 1897, when he was twenty-four years of age; the couple had three children: Pauline who died at age two; Louise who died at age sixteen; and James H. Bratton, Jr., who was born in 1912 and inherited the farm at age thirty; and

WHEREAS, James Bratton, Sr., raised cattle and crops on the farm until his death in 1942; during this time, he bought the last street car from the City of Columbia and employed a

team of mules to haul it to the farm; his daughter Louise used the street car as a playhouse, and it still remains on the farm today, albeit in pieces; and

WHEREAS, James Bratton, Jr., attended Central High School, but he quit during his senior year to work the farm full time for his father; in 1947, he began an exemplary thirty-year career with State Farm in Columbia; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, James Bratton, Jr., married Evelyn Sealy of Santa Fe; the couple met while Ms. Sealy was working at the Department of Agriculture in Maury County; and

WHEREAS, the Brattons' union was blessed with two children: Melanie Bratton Tyler, born in 1953, and James Arch "Jim" Bratton, born in 1965; and

WHEREAS, soon after their wedding, James and Evelyn Bratton moved to the Riverside neighborhood in Columbia; Mr. Bratton continued to work at State Farm and farm every evening, often in his business suit and shoes, raising polled Hereford cows and crops on 200 acres; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, James and Evelyn Bratton moved their family to a newly built home on a one-acre tract of land just north of the farm; Mrs. Bratton still lives there today; and

WHEREAS, James and Evelyn Bratton's son, James Arch or Jim, is continuing the family tradition of farming Bratton land today; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from college, Jim Bratton purchased seventy-six acres adjoining his parents' home and the original family farm from Mrs. Cleo Walker; he has been a full-time banker and farmer since that fateful day; and

WHEREAS, a Master Beef Producer certified through the University of Tennessee Extension Institute of Agriculture, Jim Bratton married his wife Boo in 1991, and she helps maintain the more than 125-head herd of cattle they currently own; the couple has one son, James Robert; and

WHEREAS, Jim's sister, Melanie Bratton, married Dr. Mike Tyler; they reside in Mt. Pleasant and have two daughters: Jennifer Tyler Thorington and Tara Tyler Johnson; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the members of the Bratton family for their dedication to agriculture, recognizing the importance of the family farm to our rural communities and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and honor Evelyn Bratton and Jim and Boo Bratton upon Bratton Farm of Williamsport being honored as the 2017 Maury County Alliance Century Farm of the Year in recognition of its contributions to agriculture and Tennessee's history and heritage, and we extend to these fine citizens our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.